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INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

Report of the Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee

1. The Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee considered the question of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (agenda item 15) at its 1st to 5th, 12th and 17th meetings, from 8 to 11 and on 18 and 24 July 1991. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (A/46/266-E/1991/106).

2. At the 1st to 5th meetings, the Committee held a general discussion on the item in conjunction with items 12, 16 (c), 17 and 18. At the 1st meeting, on 8 July, the Committee heard introductory statements by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator, the Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the representative of the Joint Inspection Unit.

3. Also at the 1st meeting, statements were made by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Assistant Executive Director of the World Food Programme and the representative of the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund.

4. At the 2nd meeting, on 9 July, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the representative of the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

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5. At the same meeting, the Committee heard an oral report by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Emergency and Relief Operations in the Sudan concerning the implementation of the emergency and relief operations in that country, including Operation Lifeline Sudan. An oral report was also made by the United Nations Special Coordinator for Emergency Relief Operations in Somalia.

6. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Community), Sweden (on behalf of the Nordic countries), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, Somalia and the Bahamas and the observers for the Sudan and Ethiopia. The representative of the World Meteorological Organization also made a statement.

7. At the 3rd meeting, on 10 July, statements were made by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Argentina, Yugoslavia, Peru, Chile, Pakistan and Algeria and the observers for Australia and Djibouti.

8. At the same meeting, the representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization made statements. The observer for the International Organization for Migration made a statement. A statement was also made by the observer for the International Committee of the Red Cross, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Council, category II.

9. At the 4th meeting, on 11 July, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, China, Brazil, Austria, the United States of America, Japan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Morocco and the observers for Switzerland, Cuba and Egypt.

10. At the 5th meeting, on 11 July, statements were made by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic and the observers for Yemen and Senegal.

11. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Committee summarized the general discussion on items 12, 15, 16 (c), 17 and 18.

12. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Chile proposed that the Chairman's summary be annexed to the report of the Council submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

13. Statements in support of that proposal were made by the representatives of Brazil, Somalia and the Netherlands (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Community) and the observer for Ghana (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77).

14. The Committee then decided to recommend to the Council that the text of the Chairman's summary of the general discussion on items 12, 15, 16 (c), 17 and 18 be annexed to the report of the Council submitted to the

General Assembly at its forty-sixth session (for the text of the decision, see the report of the Committee on item 18 (E/1991/139), para. 22, draft decision I).

International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

15. At the 12th meeting, on 18 July, the observer for Ghana, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and Japan, introduced a draft resolution (E/1991/C.3/L.3) entitled "International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction", which read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling General Assembly resolutions 42/169 of 9 December 1987, 43/202 of 20 December 1988, 44/236 of 22 December 1989 and 45/185 of 21 December 1990,

"Recalling its resolution 1989/99 of 26 July 1989,

"Reaffirming the important responsibility of the United Nations system as a whole for promoting international cooperation in order to address and mitigate natural disasters, provide assistance and coordinate disaster relief, preparedness and prevention,

"Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (E/1991/106),

"Taking note also of the relevant conclusions of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-first session, in particular those contained in chapter 30 of its report (A/46/16),

"1. Takes note of the report of the Scientific and Technical Committee of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction on the work of its first session, held in Bonn from 4 to 8 March 1991 and the recommendations included therein (IDNDR/STC/1991/8);

"2. Notes the establishment of the Trust Fund for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and appeals to the international community, in particular to donor countries, for adequate financial contributions to the Fund in order to carry out the activities of the Decade;

"3. Reaffirms General Assembly resolution 45/185 and stresses the need for the full implementation of its provisions relating, inter alia, to the completion of the organizational arrangements, in particular the establishment of the Special High-level Council and the celebration of the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction on 9 October 1991, as well as the provisions contained in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the resolution."

16. At the 17th meeting, on 24 July, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and Japan, introduced a revised draft resolution (E/1991/C.3/L.3/Rev.1).

17. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the revised draft resolution (see para. 19 below).

18. After the adoption of the revised draft resolution, the representative of Morocco made a statement.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD (PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION) COMMITTEE

19. The Third (Programme and Coordination) Committee recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 42/169 of 9 December 1987, 43/202 of 20 December 1988, 44/236 of 22 December 1989 and 45/185 of 21 December 1990,

Recalling its resolution 1989/99 of 26 July 1989,

Reaffirming the important responsibility of the United Nations system as a whole for promoting international cooperation in order to address and mitigate natural disasters, provide assistance and coordinate disaster relief, preparedness and prevention,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, 1/

Taking note also of the relevant conclusions reached by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-first session, in particular those contained in paragraphs 366 to 369 of its report, 2/

Noting the particular vulnerability of developing countries to natural disasters,

Welcoming the progress made in this area, in particular the first session of the Scientific and Technical Committee of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, held in Bonn from 4 to 8 March 1991,

Noting the progress achieved in the working relationship between the secretariat of the Decade, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator and the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, in accordance with relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 45/185, and stressing the need to continue to cooperate closely,

Noting the expectations and high interest expressed by Member States in the activities envisaged under the Decade,

1. Takes note of the report of the Scientific and Technical Committee of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction on the work of its first session; 3/

2. Notes the establishment of the Trust Fund for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and appeals to the international community, in particular to donor countries, for adequate financial contributions to the Fund in order to carry out the activities of the Decade;

3. Reaffirms General Assembly resolution 45/185 and stresses the need for the full implementation of its provisions relating, inter alia, to the completion of the organizational arrangements, in particular the establishment of the Special High-level Council and the observation of the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction on 9 October 1991.

Notes

1/ E/1991/106.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/46/16).

3/ IDNDR/STC/1991/8.